



The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

# THE Exchange

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Public Diplomacy through ECA educational and cultural programs provides the opportunity for people to effect positive change at every level of society. In addition to the bricks and mortar of reconstruction in post-Saddam Iraq, we are also building a partnership with the Iraqi people to restore hope for the future.

Prior to the war ECA, working with the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA), enabled a group of Northern Iraqi journalists to spend several weeks in the United States observing how the media functions. They had a chance to talk and visit with Americans in several states. At the end of the visit one journalist said, "I learned that Americans don't care. They don't care what you are. They don't care if you worship one way or the other. They don't even ask! This is a good thing of not caring. I want this for my country."

ECA and NEA are collaborating on exchanges critical to reconstructing a civil society and rule of law in Iraq. Exchanges will focus on youth, women, and families and their roles in community building, teacher training, entrepreneurship, and NGO development. ECA strives to protect Iraq's cultural heritage by working with UNESCO, the American Overseas Research Center and other organizations.

In collaboration with the Bureau of South Asian Affairs (SA), ECA is enabling Afghan women teachers to update their skills and train other teachers. Working with NEA, ECA hosted a group of women from the Middle East who sought training to contribute more effectively as political and community leaders. Through the Bureau of African Affairs (AF), ECA helped teachers fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS through education. Working with the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP), we connected youth from China with youth from Washington, DC. ECA and the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR) connected Kazakh religious leaders and American leaders through an International Visitor program. Through ECA's Culture Connect and collaboration with the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA), Kennedy Center president Michael Kaiser shares his expertise on museum management with Mexico City.

I recently met with a group of young people participating in ECA's Future Leaders Exchange program. They came to the U.S. from Eurasia to live with American families, attend high school and interact with Americans. One young woman said, "...I was thinking how lucky I was to have this time in America. But the most important thing that this experience showed me was that one person can make a difference. I want to be this person and I want my country to have this democracy, which the U.S. has. I will do my best to reach this goal."

That's what we are working for -- democracy, peace, prosperity, and the non-negotiable demands of human dignity, engaging today with a new generation who will be part of the partnership for the future.

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U.S. Air Force Photo/SSGT D. MYLES CULLEN

*Members of the military and the Office of Resource and Humanitarian Assistance meet with the Chair of the State Board of Antiquities and directors of the Iraqi National Museum to discuss a plan to recover stolen artifacts and eventually rebuild and reopen the museum in Baghdad.*

## *Objectivity and Freedom of U.S. Press Impresses Iraqi Journalists*

Impartiality, independence, openness, and vigilance, the hallmarks of our democracy's free media, were explored by five northern Iraqi journalists. The ECA-sponsored "Community- Based Television Broadcasting," exposed journalists to small-scale broadcasting, telecommunications regulation, and broadcasting's role in local government accountability.

Participants, Kurdish television station producers and directors, have witnessed the astonishing growth of news media outlets in northern Iraq. Since the 1991 Gulf War, stability and political autonomy has blanketed the northern region, providing the opportunity to promote democratic pluralism, communal harmony, and civic culture.

After arrival in Washington, D.C., journalists met with the U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute. This non-profit joint venture between the telecommunications industry and the federal government held a two-day seminar covering technical and policy issues relating to journalism. In addition,

participants visited the first African-American owned and operated station, WHUT-TV at Howard University to get a sense of broadcasting's role in empowering minorities.

The program continued in Raleigh, North Carolina, where visitors met with News 14 Carolina, a round-the-clock current events station. The station's administrative committee showed how local media can achieve broadcasting objectives with limited resources.

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In Seattle, Washington participants shared experiences from the Iraq-Iran war with students at the University of Washington's Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma.

The tour's focal point in Atlanta, Georgia, was the largest faith-based cable network, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters. Journalists saw the station's educational and public service programming which covers diverse religious and political views.

At the Islamic Center in New York City, journalists were curious about the Muslim-American community's treatment after September 11. Members of the congregation assured journalists that the U.S. is committed to freedom of worship and equality.

The Arabic radio service, Radio Sawa and Voice of America were the first stops back in Washington, D.C. Participants met with officials from the executive and legislative branches of the government. ECA arranged for the group to be videotaped at several locations in Washington. The journalists hope that these scenes, along with videos they took during the program, could be broadcast on northern Iraqi television stations.

Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Harrison spoke with the group and assured them of the U.S. commitment to the people of Iraq. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher met with the journalists after they attended a press conference.

During the program's evaluation session, ECA program officer Dr. Sana Abed-Kotob explained, "The participants noted the interest and freedom of television stations to report on matters of religion and ethnicity. American television's impartiality and self-reliance – its willingness to forego government funding for complete independence– struck them forcibly."

## Students Connect through US-China Youth Exchange Initiative

"Living with our host family and making friends with American students has given us an opportunity to find out that we are really not that different," said Ying Jieru of Beijing. She was among the Chinese and American students concluding a three-week reciprocal exchange program at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C., who visited the Department of State on February 12 to discuss their experience with Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Harrison.

"You are all ambassadors," Assistant Secretary Harrison told them. "You are able to connect to each other, to establish ties and discover commonalities that counter misconceptions." Addressing the eight students from Beijing, she said, "You are

able to return home and communicate firsthand about the people of the United States and our diverse culture. Your American friends will have the same opportunity when they visit you in China."

*I'd encourage other Americans to share in the joy of this experience by trying to open their minds to different cultures and different people.*

The students join hundreds of participants in the US-China Youth Exchange Initiative launched by the ECA Youth Programs Division in 2000, who are gaining an appreciation for each other's culture. The program connects 50 schools for collaboration on Internet-based projects on topics such as environmental awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and volunteerism. Seven of

the school partnerships are participating in exchanges of students and teachers in 2002-2003. These delegations attend school and live with host families in their partner communities for three to four weeks. "The ripple effect of this program extends far and wide," said Carolyn Lantz of the Youth Programs Division, noting the benefit to thousands of students in the participating schools.

"The relationships that I have gained have made an extraordinary impact on my life," said participant Janaiha Nelson of Banneker High. "This opportunity will probably be one of the most edifying and eye-opening experiences of my life. I'd encourage other Americans to share in the joy of this experience by trying to open their minds to different cultures and different people. I can't wait to reunite with them this June."

(Below, A/S Harrison meets with the students from China and those from Banneker, to discuss their experiences with each other.)



# ECA Alumni: The Measure of Success

## *Where are they now?*

Country	Name	Program/Year	Achievements
Afghanistan	Dawood Farahi	Kansas (1970s)	1st Afghan-American to be appointed president of a U.S. University (Keene University, NJ)
USA	Daniel Libeskind	Fulbrighter to Finland	Chosen to design the new World Trade Center Site and Memorial
South Korea	Dr. Sung-Joo Han	Fulbright Fellow to University of New Hampshire (1962-64)	Ambassador of Korea to the U.S.
Yaounde	Dr. Mosoko Jembia MD	International Visitor Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic Program (2002)	Director of the Epidemiological Surveillance and Research Unit of the National AIDS Control Commission (Cameroon)
Ecuador	General Oswaldo Jarrin	International Visitor "Democracy and Anti-Terrorism" Program (2002)	Joint Armed Forces Commander
Chile	Luis Bates	Fulbright Visiting Scholar American University (1990)	Minister of Justice

## *Programs Highlighted in the Media*

Country	Program (Participant Author)	Publishing Source
China	"After September 11: Images from Ground Zero" Photo Exhibit in Shanghai	Xinmin Weekly (Chinese Weekly) The Shanghai Daily (English Daily) The Shanghai Star (English Weekly)
Nigeria	Citizen Exchange "Freedom House" Democratic Training Program for Journalists from Nigeria (Habib Aruna)	Daily Independent (Lagos English Daily) 6 articles about his U.S. program experience and the American Freedom of Information Act
Mexico	International Visitor "Anti-Corruption and Transparency" Program (Juan Carlos Barboza)	Tijuana's Municipal Code of Ethics and Transparency (To be voted on in spring 2003)



# ECA: The Diversified Portfolio



*The newest address for comprehensive visa information is on the world wide web at **WWW.UnitedStatesVisas.Gov***

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs staff contributed much of the information available on this new State Department-maintained website. In addition to providing information about obtaining a visa, including procedures and policies, the website informs users how to register on arrival in the United States and how to obtain updates on the status of visa applications. The site also offers useful links to other government agencies.*



Main topics of the website include: What is a Visa?, U.S. Visa Policy, How to get a Visa, Visa News, and How to Get an Update. Subtopics include Nonimmigrant Visas, Immigrant Visas, Visa Classifications and categories, Visa Application Forms, New Procedures, Processing Times, Registration, Arriving in the United States, Acts of Congress and Frequently Asked Questions.

International Visitor  
program



United States  
Department of State  
Bureau of Educational  
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## *U.S. Citizen Diplomats Attend NCIV Meeting in Record Numbers*

Over 500 representatives, including over 300 volunteers from 92 Councils for International Visitors nationwide, attended the annual National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) meeting in Washington, D.C. this March. The event, which is sponsored and funded in large part by ECA, is an intensive training opportunity for NCIV members.

Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison spoke at the opening plenary session about the impact of exchanges on visitors and U.S. communities. The Assistant Secretary encouraged and lauded NCIV members saying, "...The International Visitor Program participants I meet are always... overwhelmed, not just by the programs themselves, but by your generosity, your friendship and your commitment that lasts so much longer than the programs do."

# State Spotlight: NEW YORK

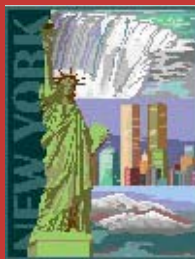


(Above, D/S Armitage, Mrs. Gilman, A/S Harrison, and Congressman Gilman meet before the ceremony.)

## **New York Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman Honored for Leadership in International Education**

The Department of State honored retiring Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY-20<sup>th</sup> District) for his significant contributions to international exchange. Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage presented Gilman with the Department's highest award, the Secretary's Distinguished Service Medal, noting that the international scholarship program the Congressman championed is "a legacy that is especially valuable today when we're engaged in a global effort to fight against terrorism." Under Gilman's leadership, Congress enacted the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program in 2000 to provide up to \$5,000 for outstanding American students in financial need to study abroad. The program is sponsored by ECA and administered by the Institute of International Education.

"In looking back over the past 30 years, I recognize that the most enduring influence is achieved through our international exchange programs, because people-to-people contact — the seeing, the doing, the interacting — is how we learn to appreciate our similarities and, yes, our differences," said Congressman Gilman.



## New York

<i>Fulbrighters</i>	760
<i>Academic Exchanges</i>	56
<i>International Visitors</i>	1229
<i>Citizen Exchanges</i>	853
<i>Total Program Participants in New York</i>	2898

<i>Program Participants from New York</i>	1016
<i>Program Participants to New York</i>	1882

<i>Total Dollars Allotted to New York Programs in 2002</i>	\$34,710,604
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## **IV New York Program Bureau Reaches Thousands**

The International Visitor Program's New York Program Branch (NYPB), annually introduces some 3,000 ECA program visitors to New York's unique cultural resources. Since 9/11, many visitors have learned from New York's experience in emergency planning and disaster response, and its strategies to promote dialogue among diverse ethnic and religious communities. The NYPB draws on the varied professional backgrounds of its multilingual staff, many of whom are former and current interpreters, ELOs and Foreign Service Officers.

## **Pace University and Partners Offer NAFTA MBA Courses**

Pace University has a grant from ECA to support a partnership with Ecoles des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, Montreal, Canada;

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada; and Technologic Institute of Higher Education in Monterrey, Mexico that has resulted in the creation of three new MBA courses related to NAFTA. These courses cover North American financial markets and institutions, the impact of NAFTA on marketing in North America, and corporate strategy and economic integration in North America. Courses are divided in two segments, one taught at each institution in its regular spring semester and the second segment brings faculty and students from the four schools to New York for two intensive weeks.

"I realized that I have become more aware of how important the PanAmerican Economic Integration Phenomenon is for partners of the three countries... it is necessary to listen to what other people from different parts of the continent have to say about business," said Florence Chong of Pace, New York

# ECA: Reaching Younger, Wider, Deeper

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(Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Steve Hart meets with the Nigerian Journalists during their visit to the State Department)

## *Assistant Secretary Harrison calls Nigerian Journalists “Agents of Change”*

After visiting U.S. media houses in six cities, interning with news organizations, and speaking with government and NGO representatives, five Nigerian journalists left the United States ready to positively affect the democratic process in their country. Participants, selected for the ECA Office of Citizen Exchanges-sponsored Freedom House journalists democratic training program, noted Americans’ deep sense of history, unbiased news reporting, and openness. At the program’s conclusion, Assistant Secretary Patricia Harrison met with the group and noted that as a result of their experiences, they are “agents of change.”

## *Fulbright Student’s Photographic Essay on AIDS in Uganda*

Vibe magazine (February 2003) published “The Killing Fields,” a photographic essay by 2002 Fulbright student Vanessa Vick, to reflect the faces of AIDS in

Uganda. While in Uganda on her Fulbright grant, Vick established relationships with individual families in order to document through photographs and personal interviews the impact of the AIDS epidemic on Ugandan culture and society. She returned from Uganda in December 2002 and is beginning to publish her work. Vick’s personal passion as a photojournalist and a documentary photographer is to continue covering the AIDS epidemic in East Africa and its effects on the people. “It is my hope that by telling the stories of individuals through images and their own words that positive change will occur,” said Vick.

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## *NEA Exchange Creates Opportunities For Women NGO Leaders*

A five-city, three-week tour enabled women NGO leaders from Gaza, Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen, to share ideas with experts from a vast array of NGOs, governmental offices, think tanks, advocacy and lobbying groups, and university research centers. The program, Promoting Effective NGO Leadership for Women, provided a full range of viewpoints and perspectives related to non-profit management and stressed the importance of effective internal and external

communication strategies. Participants particularly enjoyed hearing about Assistant Secretary Harrison’s entrepreneurial experiences as well as the workshops and warm welcomes they received in Jackson, Mississippi and San Antonio.

## *English Teaching Materials Boost Education in Angola*

PAS Luanda reduced Angola’s severe shortage of American English learning materials by donating more than 1000 sets of Office of English Language Programs teaching materials, many with audiotapes, to Angola’s major provincial university in Lubango, the Instituto Superior De Ciencias Da Educacao (ISCED), and to two leading high schools in Luanda. A series of Regional English Language Officer (RELO) workshops on materials development at these three sites drew 250 educators who used HIV-AIDS materials in the language classes. U.S. Ambassador to Angola Christopher William Dell addressed and awarded certificates to participants in Luanda. Ambassador Dell’s remarks, the book donation, and the workshops all attracted local print and TV coverage.

(Below, A group of students at an RELO workshop)



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*[HTTP://EXCHANGES.STATE.GOV/EDUCATION](http://EXCHANGES.STATE.GOV/EDUCATION)*

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